313 This high proportion should be contrasted with the small forest area of this Republic in relation to that of the whole U.S.S.R.

185 313 433 The goal set for timber deliveries by the B.S.S.R. in 1950 is 11,100,000 cubic metres; and cuttings during the period 1946-50 are planned at 58,400,000 cubic metres. The aggregate timber deliveries attained during four and one-quarter years of the first Five Year Plan, 1928-32, amounted to 32,600,000 cubic metres, or 7,670,000 annually. In 1928 it had been estimated that the timber resources of the B.S.S.R. were adequate to permit cuttings of 12 million cubic metres a year by 1932. This scale of cuttings was never reached, but the figure is mentioned here because it approximates the present plan of annual deliveries set for 1950, at a time when the area of Byelorussia is about double what it was in 1928.

The reason for this is that a large amount of easily accessible timber was burned out by the Germans during the war. The Governor of Vitebsk oblast, quoting from official figures, told members of the UNRRA Mission in June 1946 that 22 per cent. of the oblast was covered by good timber before the war but at present only 16 per cent. It was estimated by the Governor of Polotsk oblast that 46 percent. of the forests of the oblast were cut, burned or taken away during the war. Post-war cutting operations will therefore be restricted in many areas, and a reforestation programme will be carried out on an area of 189,000 hectares. Meanwhile, felling will be centred in the dense swamp areas previously untouched and impossible to exploit without extensive development of motor and narrow-gauge haulways provided for in the Five Year Plan.

Of the 1950 goal for timber production, 5 million cubic metres is set for annual production under the direction of the Timber Ministry of the B.S.S.R. An undisclosed amount will be produced under the auspices of local and co-operative industry. Although no full details are at present available, nevertheless, a few comparisons with pre-war production are possible. For example, in 1928 the production of plywood in Byelorussia amounted to 59,000 cubic metres, and in 1940 to 254,000 cubic metres (36.2 per cent. of the plywood output of the Soviet Union). In 1950 the plywood output of republican, local, and co-operative industry is scheduled to be 118,500 cubic metres. No pre-war figures are available for sawn lumber output, except for 1928, when 636,060 cubic metres were produced. The planned output of sawn lumber for 1950 is 1,800,000 cubic metres, nearly three times the 1928 amount.

• [439] As for the export of timber, no figures are available, but it is known that Byelorussian timber has been and still is an important source of mine props for the Donets coal mines in the Ukrainian S.S.R. 313 However, in view of the tremendous shelter rehabilitation programme in 185 devastated Byelorussia, it does not seem likely that there will be much surplus timber available. Of 400,000 collective farm houses scheduled for restoration, only 60,000 are to be built of brick. An equal, if not larger, number of public buildings were destroyed on collective farms;